

STUDIES IN THE SENECEONEAE (ASTERACEAE). VIII.

A NEW SPECIES OF PSACALIUM FROM MEXICO

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A specimen from Oaxaca, Mexico, collected by John Beaman in 1960 represents an undescribed member of the tribe Senecioneae. The preserved material shows some flowers with a reddish color, but the species is not closely related to the red-flowered species that form a distinctive subgroup of Senecio in Mexico. The new species is, on the contrary, Cacalioid with continuous stigmatic surfaces on the inner sides of the style branches and with undifferentiated cells in the lower part of the anther collars. The species has the leaves clustered at the base, the corolla lobes separated to the base of the limb, and the endothelial cells thickened along the lateral walls as in the genus Psacalium.

Psacalium beamanii HRobinson, sp. nov.

Plantae herbaceae acaulescentes. Folia omnino basilaria simplices, petiolis 6-10 cm longis base late vaginatis caetera sensim anguste alatis utrinque lanosis; laminae oblongo-ellipticae 10-14 cm longae et ca. 4.5 cm latae base breviter acutae margine integrae vel leniter subsinuatae apice rotundatae supra persparse pilosae inferne in nervis primariis lanosae subtus ubique dense lanosae, nervis pinnatis, nervis secundariis valde ascendentibus. Inflorescentiae scaposae paucicapitatae, scapis 15-20 cm longis dense lanosis aliquantum glabrescentes, pedicellis 1.5-3.5 cm longis lanosis. Capitula ca. 10-13 mm longa et 7-8 mm lata breviter cylindrica; bracteae calyculi ca. 3-4 lineares 8-11 mm longae subevanescentiter lanosae; bracteae involucri lavandulae ca. 12 biseriatae oblongo-ellipticae 8-9 mm longae et 2.0-2.5 mm latae margine indistincte scariosae apice breviter acutae extus subevanescentiter pilosae. Flores ca. 20-25 in capitulo; corollae in sicco rubrotinctae glabrae 7.0-7.5 mm longae superne ad tubum profunde divisae, tubis 2.8-3.3 mm longis, lobis lineari-lanceolatis 4.0-4.5 mm longis et ca. 0.7 mm latis; filamenta in parte superiore ca. 0.3-0.4 mm longa; thecae ca. 2 mm longae,

cellulis endothecialibus lateraliter noduliferis; appendices antherarum ovatae ca. 0.7 mm longae et 0.3 mm latae apice subobtusae; rami stylorum intus ubique stigmatiferi; achaenia 4.5-5.0 mm longa 10-costata glabra; setae pappi ca. 30 uniseriatae remotae facile deciduae breves ca. 1 mm longae scabrae subapice plerumque 30-35 μ latae. Grana pollinis 35-40 μ in diametro valde spinosa.

TYPE: MEXICO: Oaxaca: Llano de las Flores on the Oaxaca-Valle Nacional highway 20 kilometers east of Ixtlan; ca. 2870 m alt.; in wet meadow of low grasses and forbs; frequent. 22 July 1960. John H. Beaman 3697 (Holotype, US).

The reduced pappus of Psacalium beamanii is distinctive but a few other species of Psacalium (Robinson & Brettell, 1973) have a pappus short or lacking. The new species is not very typical of the genus Psacalium, and the reddish flowers differ from the white-flowered condition found in all other species. The inflorescence is short but without congested or subfasciated primary branching, and the leaves are not peltate. As such the plant might be close to P. paucicapitatum (B.L.Robins. & Greenm.) H.Robins. & Brettell. The latter is another rather distinctive member of the genus also from Oaxaca, but it is easily distinguished by the pinnately lobed leaves and the fully developed pappus.

Literature Cited

- Robinson, H. and R. D. Brettell 1973. Studies in the Senecioneae (Asteraceae). III. The genus Psacalium. Phytologia 27 (4): 254-264.